

Message Text

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15

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05

L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-01 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

XMB-02 /094 W

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R 052020Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8015

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRASILIA 1680

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, BR

SUBJECT: CONTINUING BRAZILIAN CONCERNS OVER US TRADE ACT:
GEISEL AND GOMES STATEMENTS

REF: BRASILIA 1558

1. SUMMARY: SINCE LAST WEEK'S CABINET MEETING ON US
TRADE ACT, THERE HAS BEEN FURTHER EVIDENCE BRAZILIAN PRE-
OCCUPATION AND CONCERN, AT HIGHEST LEVELS OF GOB, OVER
LONG-TERM IMPLICATIONS OF US LEGISLATION. SEVERO GOMES,
MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, IN STATEMENT TO PRESS, SAID
THAT BRAZIL WAS STUDYING DEFENSIVE MEASURES AGAINST THE
POSSIBILITY THAT IT WOULD BE SUBJECTED TO RESTRICTIVE OR
RETALIATORY PROVISIONS UNDER THE ACT. PRESIDENT GEISEL'S
MESSAGE OF OPENING OF CONGRESS DISCUSSES TRADE ACT AT SOME
LENGTH, WARNING THAT "MULTIPLICATION OF RESTRICTIVE MEASURES"
MAY ERODE FUNDAMENTALS OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO
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COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY.

2. ON FEBRUARY 27, IN COMMENTING ON SUCCESSIVE MEETINGS OF THE ECONOMIC MINISTERS, SEVERO GOMES COMPARED THE TRADE ACT TO "A CANNON WHICH, SET TO FIRE, CAN SHOOT OFF INTO ANY DIRECTION;" "IT DOES NOT BEHOOVE US TO WAIT FOR THE FIRE AND ONLY THEN TO STUDY THE MEANS FOR OUR DEFENSE."

3. ACCORDING TO O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, THE MINISTER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE US HAD SOME CAUSE IN ASSERTING THAT THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES ARE ALARMING THEMSELVES UNREASONABLY. BUT, THE PAPER CONTINUES, THE MINISTER SAID, "NO ONE BUILDS A CANNON TO KEEP IT WITHOU USING IT." THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT MUST TAKE PRECAUTIONS, BY EXAMINING MEASURES TO BE PUT INTO EFFECT AT SUCH TIME AS TRADE PROBLEMS WITH THE US ARISE AS A RESULT OF THE LEGISLATION. SEVERO GOMES EXPRESSED PESSIMISM THAT THE THRUST OF THE LAW COULD BE "SOFTENED," THROUGH THE RESULTS OF THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS, NOTING THE EXTENSIVE POWERS OF THE US CONGRESS TO "VETO" THE OBJECTIVES OF THE EXECUTIVE.

4. IN HIS MARCH 1 OPENING MESSAGE TO THE NATIONAL CONGRESS (MORE FULLY REPORTED SEPTEL), PRESIDENT GEISEL DEALS AT SOME LENGTH WITH THE ISSUE OF US TRADE RESTRICTIONS. REFERRING TO THE TRADITIONAL TIES OF FRIENDSHIP, PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUES: "BRAZIL IS FACING PROBLEMS WHICH PERSIST PRINCIPALLY IN COMMERCIAL SPHERE, WITH SERIOUSNESS BUT WITH SENSE OF PERSPECTIVE, CONSCIOUS THAT IT IS IN HER INTEREST TO PRACTICE SOBER AND REALISTIC POLICY WHICH EXCLUDES FATALISM OF AUTOMATIC OR PRECONCEIVED ALIGNMENTS. AT APPROPRIATE MOMENTS, IN BILATERAL DEALINGS AND IN OTHER APPROPRIATE FORA, THE GREATEST CARE WAS TAKEN TO EXPRESS BRAZILIAN CONCERN AT THE ADOPTION BY USG OF CERTAIN TRADE PRACTICES, BE THEY THE RESULT OF AD HOC DECISIONS OR THE PASSING OF SOME INTERNAL LAWS. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT THE MULTIPLICATION OF RESTRICTIVE MEASURES, DIRECTLY PREJUDICIAL TO THE TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS, MAY COME TO WEAKEN ... THE FUNDAMENTALS OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THEM." CRIMMINS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE LAW, PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BRASIL01680
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750078-0100
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750382/aaaacvmu.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BRASILIA 1558
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUN 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <19 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONTINUING BRAZILIAN CONCERNS OVER US TRADE ACT: GEISEL AND GOMES STATEMENTS
TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, BR, (GEISEL, ERNESTO), (GOMES, SERVERO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006